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NOTES

THE ROAD TO EN-DOR¹

This book tells the story of the plans laid by two British officers for escape from a prison camp in Asiatic Turkey. The first scheme, which took shape casually from some jesting trials of a home-made ouija board, was to convince the Turkish Commandant that the officers in question possessed mediumistic powers. It succeeded beyond expectation; not only the Turks, but also the fellow-prisoners of the pretended mediums were convinced. "In the face of the most persistent and elaborate efforts to detect fraud," writes the author, "it is possible to convert intelligent, scientific, and otherwise highly educated men to spiritualism, by means of the arts and methods employed by 'mediums' in general." More than that, these men may remain converted. "Eighteen months later, . . . I had told [one of the converts] all our work had been fraudulent, and had quoted [an instance] to show how it was done. . . . The Convert smiled pityingly at me"—and proposed an explanation by unconscious telepathy! No wonder, then, that the Turks were impressed. Things went so far that the camp was to all intents and purposes governed by the 'spook,' who secured many privileges for the inmates. And the plan finally failed, not by its inherent weakness, but through the over-credulity of its victims: a counter-spook, brought on the scene in the interests of escape, grew by an unhappy accident all too powerful; and it was the Commandant's fear of this opposing power that wrecked the whole elaborate device.

If, however, the first part of the book reads us an excellent lesson in applied psychology, the second part is even more instructive. The original plan, perforce abandoned, passed smoothly into another, a plan of release by way of pretended madness; the one officer became a 'furious,' the other a 'melancholic.' Here the risks were, of course, much greater than before, since the simulation must run the gauntlet not only of the local Turkish medical officers but also of the Paris-and-Vienna-and-Berlin-trained psychiatrists of Constantinople. The two men had been well coached at Yozgad by a fellow-prisoner, a physician of wide experience. They showed an astonishing endurance and persistence, and kept up an unrelenting guard on their own conduct and on that of their visitors and attendants. The case-histories were also prepared with the utmost care and foresight. All the same, one wonders what might have happened if Mazhar Osman Bey had been less busy! Perhaps a psychiatrist may be persuaded to go over the data and tell us. This plan succeeded, and the officers were freed—just about a fortnight before the armistice with Turkey was signed. They had, nevertheless, the full satisfaction of success, and the record of their adventures is a valuable psychological document. E. B. T.

¹ *The Road to En-Dor: Being an Account of How Two Prisoners of War at Yozgad in Turkey Won their Way to Freedom.* By E. H. Jones, Lt. I. A. R. O. With illustrations by C. W. Hill, Lt. R. A. F. New York, John Lane. MCMXX. Pp. xiii., 375.

JOURNAL DE PSYCHOLOGIE

The *Journal* of Pierre Janet and Georges Dumas, interrupted by the war, began to appear again in January, 1920. With the reissue, the editors have taken a new departure. Without any thought of hostility to British and American psychologists, they desire to make their magazine "a Latin journal, appearing at the same time in all the Latin capitals, publishing articles written by Latin psychologists, and addressing itself to all Latin readers." They have accordingly brought together an international staff, consisting of J. Ingenieros (Argentina), Van Biervliet and Decroly (Belgium), Austregesilo, M. Bomfim, J. Moreira, A. Peixoto, F. da Rocha (Brazil); G. Marañón, A. Pi Suñer, S. Ramon y Cajal, R. Turró (Spain); H. Bergson, Ch. Blondel, Chaslin, Delacroix, Lalande, Lapique, Piéron, Rabaud, Revault d'Allonnes, Séglas, H. Wallon (France); Boreas, Catsaras (Greece); Ferrari, Gemelli, Kiesow, Morselli, Ponzo, Rignano, Sante de Sanctis, Tanzi (Italy); Marinesco, Obregia, Radulesco-Motru (Rumania); and Bovet, Claparède, Larguier des Bancels (Switzerland). Most of these names are already familiar to us; of the rest we shall hope to learn from the pages of the *Journal*.

E. B. T.

ARCHIVIO ITALIANO DI PSICOLOGIA

We have received the first (double) number of this journal, which is edited by Professor F. Kiesow of Turin and Professor A. Gemelli of Milan with the co-operation of V. Benussi (Padua), L. Botti (Turin), C. Colucci (Naples), S. de Sanctis (Rome), E. Morselli (Genoa) and M. Ponzo (Turin). The staff is both strong and representative, and the *Archivio* has our best wishes for the success that it will undoubtedly achieve. According to a prefatory Note to the Reader, the *Rivista di psicologia*, edited by Professor G. C. Ferrari of Bologna, will devote itself to the application of scientific psychology and to the popularisation of psychological results among the students of neighboring disciplines, while the *Archivio* will publish strictly scientific articles. The contents of the present issue are: F. Kiesow, Observations on the relation between two objects viewed separately by the two eyes; A. Gemelli and A. Galli, Researches on attention: i. A new method for the study of fluctuations of attention; V. Roncagli, Experimental investigations by the method of the maze; G. A. Elrington, The expression of the musical intervals; L. Botti, Psychological observations on the concept of the 'last'; F. Kiesow, A phenomenon of central representation (assimilative illusion); F. Kiesow, A forgotten experiment (Fechner's rivalry between the dark field of a closed and the light field of an open eye); A. Gemelli, G. Tessier and A. Galli, The perception of the position of the body and of its derangements: a contribution to the psychology of the aviator. General Review: A. Gemelli, The application of psychological methods to the study of aesthetics. Notes.

E. B. T.

SUBCUTANEOUS SENSATIONS

In the spring of 1920 I met with a minor accident that gave opportunity for observation of the sensations localized in the muscles when directly stimulated. The thumb and first finger of the left hand were cut almost completely through at the first phalange and the second or middle finger was completely severed through the second phalange. No pain was connected with the occurrence. As a matter of fact

several seconds elapsed before the injury was called to my attention by the loss of the usual sensitivity of the tips of the thumb and fingers. The lacerations were cleansed with sterile water before the experimentation, in order that the sensations might not be clouded by the effects common with the use of most germicidal preparations. The flow of blood was effectually stopped and the surfaces of the wounds were kept fairly free during the series of observations.

It was anticipated that any manipulation of the exposed surfaces would be painful to some extent; but pain was not observed, and adaptation was rapidly made to the new conditions. It was a rather excruciating feeling that was experienced, especially when large areas were stimulated by contact. The resultant sensations were at once recognized as possessing some of the qualities peculiar to the subcutaneous sensations, and it was attempted to take advantage of the circumstances to make an investigation of the nature of the sensations originating in the muscles.

The sensations resulting from the stimulation of the stump of the second digit and the proximal surfaces of the other two lacerations were very similar to the feeling ordinarily experienced when the skin is anaesthetised and pressure applied; but the resemblances were scarcely more noticeable than the differences. To compare the sensations directly does not convey an adequate conception of the nature of the sensations experienced when the muscle itself is stimulated. The sensations obtained in this manner were to some extent more intense, more noticeable, more distinct, and qualitatively somewhat different. The skin of the right forearm was anaesthetised and the two sensation-complexes were directly compared. Those arising in the bared muscles seemed to be more intimately related to the body, while the others were, comparatively, more aloof, more external, and seemed to be less a part of my 'self' than the former. The sensations originating in the anaesthetised area were qualitatively more complex; although, when a large area was stimulated on the bared muscles, the quality seemed to become increasingly complex with an increase in area or pressure or with a violent manipulation. The sensations arising from light stimulation of certain small areas on the exposed surfaces by the tip of a probe were of a nature that leads me to believe that in them I experienced isolated muscle-sensations simple and uncomplicated. There were only certain points at which these apparently elementary sensations could be aroused; but whenever these points were stimulated the unique quality was clearly perceived. Stimulation was found to be most efficient when the point was irritated by bringing a slight pressure to bear, at right angles to their axis, on neighboring fibres. The sensation can be described only by reference to the entire cutaneous and subcutaneous complexes. As a matter of fact its quality almost evades description.

The dull, deadened feeling characteristic of the sensations underlying the anaesthetised area does not carry over to the description of what appear to be the clean-cut sensations found by manipulation of the muscles themselves. The latter sensations, while not acute, are not heavy or torpid, but rather are keen and brisk, though accompanied by a 'smouldering' feeling. They are sharp and distinct, but not in the least painful or unpleasant, unless it be at first when they are novel and unexpected. They cannot be compared to the tired feeling following upon excessive muscular activity, as the muscle-sensations have been. On the contrary, a bracing feeling like that going with good physical tone serves better to convey some idea of

the nature of these sensations. They are bracing but bland. They are not diffuse, like the sensations arising from pressure on the anaesthetised area, but are fairly compact and unified.

A peculiar error of localization was observed. Only a very few of the stimulations were referred even to the approximate point of stimulation. They were usually referred to some point on the tip of the finger. In one instance the stimulation was localized at a definite point on the palmar surface of the finger tip, when in reality it was applied near the back. This one error was repeated several times, when the same point was stimulated without my being aware of the place of contact. The sensations leading to these faulty localizations were of a more complex nature than (and of a different quality from) what was considered to be the elementary sense-quality. These errors of reference still persist in the second digit, and it is now possible to hold the stump rigid and yet to have a definite feeling of flexion at the distal joint.

Similar observations of the nature of these deeper-lying sensations were carried out two months later, with the *abductor pollicis brevis* of the right hand uncovered, and essentially the same qualitative characteristics were noted as before, accompanied by even more marked errors of localization. In both regions the limen for temperature was very high, and at only a very few scattered points were temperatures that were not physiologically harmful perceptible.

These observations of difference in quality of the subcutaneous sensations when directly stimulated from their quality when investigated in the usual manner would seem to indicate that in the latter case we are still dealing with a complex from which only the surface sensations have been eliminated.

University of Iowa

DONALD A. LAIRD

THE INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY AT PARIS

At the University of Paris there has been inaugurated this year the Institute of Psychology under the Faculty of Sciences. The following courses are scheduled: Delacroix, *Psychologie générale*, "La Psychologie française au XIX siècle;" Dumas, *Psychologie pathologique et expérimentale*, "Introduction générale, theories et méthodes" and "Les suppléances sensorielles;" Janet, at the Collège de France, *Psychologie expérimentale et comparée*, "L'évolution de la personnalité;" Piéron, *Psychophysiologie générale*, "Études des sensations;" and Rabaud, "Introduction à la psychologie animale."

The Section of Pedagogy of the Institute offers a series of conferences at the Sorbonne by Rabaud, Meyerson, Piéron, Lalo, and Wallon; a laboratory course on neuro-psychiatric children at the Bicêtre; and a course on retarded children at the Asnières by Roubinovitch.